

THE FAMILY OF JOHN PERIOR, CHARTER-
WARDEN OF GODALMING; AND THE
MANOR OF ASHURST IN GODALMING.

BY

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THE Periors were long settled on the border land of Surrey and Sussex, holding lands at Dunsfold, Kirdford, and Wisborough Green; and the childhood of John Perior, the warden of Godalming nominated by the Elizabethan Charter of 25 January 1574-5,¹ was probably passed at Wisborough.

He appears to have settled at Godalming towards the end of the reign of Henry VIII, when the cloth trade was flourishing;² but his family had for some time been connected with the town, by the possession of a moiety of the Estate or Manor of Asshers otherwise Ashurst.

Part or the whole of Ashurst was at one time the property of one Edward Brooker, who died in or before 1486, leaving a widow named Agnes (afterwards the wife of John Awdymer) and three daughters and co-heirs: of whom Anne and Margaret respectively married John Hyberden or Hybden, and David Lloyd; and Julia became the wife—first, of Ralph Wylkys, and secondly, of John Peryer.³

¹ Patent Roll, 17 Elizabeth, Part 7, Memb. 4; and *S. A. C.*, XIX, 125.

² The street of Godalming was first paved a few years previously (*circ.* 1528). Declaration of 30 April 1568, made by John Smith (aged 74), who stated that a certain tithe had been taken about the time that Godalming Street was first paved, which, to his remembrance, was about 40 years past (Loseley MSS.).

³ Early Chancery Proceedings, Bundle 206, No. 32. Hyberden, Lloyd, and Peryer *v.* Awdymer (*circ.* 1493—1500).

From a list of rents payable at Michaelmas, 1486,¹ it appears that the heirs of Edward Brooker then held (*inter alia*) divers lands in the vill or tything of Godalming, at a half-yearly rent of 3s. 5½*d.*, viz.: 6s. 11*d.* a year; and, although the divers lands are not named, there can be no reasonable doubt that they practically represented lands in respect of which a total rental of 7s. 2*d.* was paid to the Crown, as Lord of the Godalming Manor, in the year ending in Michaelmas, 1542;² viz.: 3s. 7*d.* by John Peryer for the Manor of Ashurst, with its appurtenances in Godalmynge, late in the tenure of Edward Broke[r], and 3s. 7*d.* by — Hybden, the kinsman and heir of Ann, late wife of George Addeston, for land lying at Okeforde, with certain land called Boreys,³ together with 3 acres of meadow, parcel of the Manor of Ashurst.⁴

Whether this John Peryer of 1542 was identical with, or was the son of the John Perior who married Julia Wylkes, *née* Brooker, is an open question, as is also the place of his or their residence. It is, moreover, uncertain whether the earlier John obtained the moiety of Ashurst by purchase⁵ or in right of his wife. Under

¹ Loseley MSS.

² Ministers' Accounts, 33 and 34 Henry VIII, No. 12. (Divers Counties.)

³ Boreys was doubtless intended for Bereys. It may be remarked that a close called the Buryes with an adjoining piece of waste (one acre in all), held under a Lease of 26 January, 8 Henry VIII (1516-7), and lying on the north side of the Godalming High Street, near Moth's, otherwise Moss Lane, was bounded in part on the east by land of (Thomas) Hiberden. (*See* Land Revenue, Miscell. Surveys, 1-3 Edw VI, Vol. 190.)

⁴ This part of Ashurst was sold to John Eliot in or before 1548, and (*circ.*) 1551 was held or occupied by Henry Chitty, *alias* Butcher, of Broadgate, Godalming, Mercer, who married Margaret, one of Mr. Eliot's daughters; and who, in his Will of 24 November 1558 (Prob. P. C. C., 22 June 1559), referred to his lease of lands sometime Edward Brooker's in Godalming. His widow, Margaret, subsequently married John Bradfold, and died in 1611.

⁵ It is possible that John Perior may have purchased the moiety, before his marriage with Edward Brooker's daughter Julia, because the following entries occur in a list (Loseley MS.) of persons liable

ordinary circumstances, the daughters and co-heirs of Edward Brooker would have divided their father's lands, and it may be fairly assumed that Ashurst was apportioned to Julia Peryer and Anne Hyberden as part or the whole of their shares; and, having regard to the lapse of time, that John and Julia Peryer were succeeded by their son, the John Peryer of 1542.

There is no doubt that a John Perior (either the father or the son) held lands in Godalming in the interim between 1486 and 1542, notably in 1528-9, when the croft of John Peryer, called "le Barton," was referred to as the southern boundary of a messuage and garden in Mill Lane, which formed part of the area now called the Mint.¹ This "Barton" was long held by the Charter-Warden and his descendants, with or as part of Ashurst; and the name is still preserved in the form of "Barton Lodge." Although, however, the Periors held land in Godalming, they were not assessed to certain subsidies of 1503-4,² 1523, 1524, and 1543;³ and their names do not appear in sundry memoranda of the proceedings of the Hundred and other Courts of Godalming, preserved at Loseley, until February 1538-9, when John Peryer was plaintiff in certain cases of trespass. It may be that a more complete series of documents would prove the contrary—but there is

to be assessed for 15^{ths} and 10^{ths} (*circa* 1487) in respect of lands, viz:—

Godalming Town...	John Puryer	4 ^s
"	Heirs of Edward Brooker...	4 ^s [2 ^d].
Eashyng	John Awdymere	4 ^s .

The liability of John Awdymere was doubtless in respect of Jordans in Eashing, which was partly the subject of the Chancery suit (*circa* 1493-1500), brought against him and his wife by Edward Brooker's daughters and their husbands (*see* Note ³, p. 113;) and the distinction drawn between "John Puryer" and the "heirs of Edward Brooker" suggests that Mr. Perior may have held the lands (presumably Ashurst) other than in right of his wife Julia.

¹ Deed of 20 January 1528-9, preserved at Loseley.
² Add Ch., Brit. Mus., No. 13,555.
³ Exchequer, Lay Subsidies, clxxxiv, 138, 142, 173, 182.

much reason to suppose that the Periors did not reside at Godalming—and that one or other of the John Periors of the sixteenth century, 1528–9 and 1541–2, was identical with John Pyryar, an inhabitant of Wisborough, Sussex, who was joint feoffee in trust of some property in Kirdford, in 1517.¹

At any rate, one John Peryer died on Easter Sunday, 25th March, 1543, holding Hokeland, etc., in Wisborough Green, and leaving his son and heir John Peryer, aged 22 years and more:² and, a few weeks later, on 10th May, 1543, presentment was made at a Godalming Court of the death of a John Peryer, who held certain lands called Asshers by a rent of 4^s a year, and left his son and heir John Peryer of full age.³

There can be no doubt that the sons described as of the age of 22 years and more, in one case, and as of full age in the other, are identical with one another, and also with the Charter-Warden, who undoubtedly held half Ashurst, and whose grandson, if not he himself, held a property called Hooklands, in Wisborough Green.⁴

From 1544 his name frequently occurs in local records. The Subsidy Assessments show that he was, from the first, one of the more prosperous inhabitants of Godalming,⁵ and that he became one of the most wealthy.⁶ Sundry memoranda relating to the Hundred and Manorial Courts⁷ denote that he took an active part in local affairs, *e. g.*, as Juror in 1546, Tythingman in 1548, and frequently (between 1566–79), as one of the suitors (*sectatores*) before whom the Hundred Courts were held. His nomination as Charter-Warden in 1574 is in itself sufficient proof that he was a leading man in the Councils of his fellow townsmen. Small matters seem,

¹ Deed lent to the Surrey Archæological Society by T. P. Whately, Esq., of Godalming.

² Inquis. p. m., (Ch.) II, Vol. 85, No. 67; (Exch.) II, File 1094, No. 4; and (W. & L.) Vol. 4, No. 7.

³ Loseley MSS.

⁴ See account of Joshua Perior, Note 1, p. 119.

⁵ Exchequer Lay Subsidies, clxxxiv, 206.

⁶ *Ibid.*, clxxxv, 336; clxxxvi, 351.

⁷ Loseley MSS.

however, to have escaped his attention. He was not infrequently fined for non-attendance at Views of Frankpledge, and in 1576 he and one Richard Stillwell were ordered to cut down their bushes and thorns which overgrew the Queen's way, called Shaested Lane.¹

John Perior married first Agnes ———, on whom his share of Ashurst was settled,² and by whom he had a son named William, and probably other of his children; and afterwards Cicely ———, who was buried on 22nd of October, 1587, by whom he had other children.³ Towards the end of his life he resided in a house standing back from the south-east side of the street formerly known as Sand Street, and now forming the upper end of the High Street, beyond the Market Place.

In his Will of 1 June 1599,⁴ he is described as John Periar of Godalming, Yeoman. He bequeaths 13^s 4^d to the poor of Godalming, and devises to his son, John Periar, two houses and a dyehouse in Mill Lane, which he had bought of Mr. John Elliott:⁵ to his son, Edward Periar, a house wherein John Avenell dwelt; to his son, Aquila Periar, a house wherein Laurence Guildford's widow dwelt, except the way leading from the street to the Testator's then dwelling-house, which was to belong to that dwelling-house; to his son Richard, a close called Barnes Close, betwixt the lane from Godalming to Tewersley on the east, Green Lane on the south, and a close of John Woodes on the west; and to his son George, a moor called Moores Hall, having Ecleford Lane on the east, and a close called Barton, in the Testator's own occupation on the north. His goods not specifically bequeathed he left to his sons Edward and Aquila, and his daughters Margaret and Elizabeth: to such as were already married or had accomplished the age of 21 years, in three months after his departure, and to the rest at

¹ Loseley MSS.

² *Ibid.*

³ Godalming Parish Register, commencing 1582.

⁴ Prob. Arch. C. of Surrey, 5 Sept. 1599.

⁵ On the south side of Mill Lane and west of the Stream.

marriage or the age of 21 years. He also left to his daughter, Margaret Peeter, widow, a red cow with a white face; and directed that, if his son William would buy the tables and forms in the hall and parlour of his (the Testator's) then dwelling-house, he should have them at a valuation.

John Perior died soon after the date of his Will, and was buried on 19th June, 1599. He is stated to have held to himself and Agnes, his former wife, and the heirs of their bodies, one tenement and certain lands (40 acres) called Ashers, and to have left William, his son and heir, of full age.

WILLIAM PERIAR, WARDEN, 1606-7.¹

William Periar, the son and heir of John Perior, the Charter Warden, was born about the middle of the sixteenth century, and married Joan, one of the daughters of the first Laurence Eliott (died 1582); and sister of the second Laurence (died 1619), who circumnavigated the globe with Sir Francis Drake, between 13th December, 1577 and 3rd November, 1580.² William Periar was a clothier of Godalming and appears to have lived in the High Street, into which he and several other inhabitants, between the years 1595 and 1597, drained their kitchen refuse, to the great annoyance of the Queen's lieges.³

William Periar had a large family by his wife Joan, and by a nuncupative Will of 20 May 1626,⁴ he bequeathed to her all his goods. He was buried on Whitsunday,

¹ Bartholomew Bowler, of Godalming, Clothier, made a nuncupative Will, 20 December 1606, in the presence of (*inter alia*) William Periar, Warden of the same town. (Prob. Arch. C. of Surrey, 24 March 1607.)

² Symmes' Collections for Surrey, Brit. Mus., Add. MS. 6167.

³ Loseley MSS.

⁴ Probate Arch. C. of Surrey, 22 March 1626-7.

28th May, 1626, and left his son John Periar,¹ of full age, and heir to half Ashurst, then held by a rent of 3s. 7d.² One "Jone Perrior, widow," who was buried on 15th December, 1634, was probably his relict.

JOHN PERIAR, SON OF WILLIAM THE WARDEN.

John Periar, the eldest son of William and Joan, seems to have been sworn into the great assize in 1595; and, if so, born about 1580. He followed the family occupation of a clothier, and doubtless stretched his cloth on his racks in the Barton.

¹ William and Joan Perior had also a younger son named Joshua, who followed the occupation of a clothier, and by inheritance, purchase, and marriage, accumulated a good estate. He at one time resided in a house lying on the west side of Pound Lane, to which he seems to refer in his Will (see below), as a messuage etc., garden and orchard in the town of Godalming, which he had by the gift and grant of his late father, William Perior, deceased.

He married First—Elizabeth, daughter of John Westbrook (married 21st May, 1610, buried 17th March, 1613–14), and had a son William, whose Will was proved P. C. C., 4th October, 1662 (*Laud*, 129).

„ „ Secondly—Elizabeth Portare (married 13th February, 1614–15, buried 29th April, 1618), who had several children, amongst others a son Joshua, who married three wives, had several children and accumulated wealth. He died 1689–90, leaving an only daughter, Lydia, the wife of William Brabant or Braborne of Bramley, and his Will was proved in the Arch. C. of Surrey, 8th February, 1689–90.

„ „ Thirdly—Margaret, one of the two daughters and co-heirs of Philip West (married 9th February, 1618–19, buried [?] 10th January, 1669–70).

In his Will of 10 November 1647 (Will and a codicil proved in London, 23 May 1649), Joshua Perior, the father, is described as of Godalming, gent. He thereby devises sundry lands, etc. (*inter alia*) the messuage, etc. above referred to, and Hookeland, in the Parish of Wisborough Green.

² Court Rolls of Manor of Godalming.

He married first, Elizabeth Smither, and secondly, Sarah Daburne, who survived him; and had sons and daughters by both wives. As one of the principal inhabitants of Godalming, he probably held the office of Warden; but, at present, no record thereof has been met with.

In his Will of 11 June 1632,¹ he is described as John Perryor of Godalming, Clothier. Thereby he left to his son William a cloth press and the lower rack in Barton; and to his son John a cloth press with all its "followers and boards," and the upper rack in Barton.

He died soon afterwards, and was buried on 4th July, 1632. He is stated to have held divers tenements and certain land with the appurtenances in Godalming, and to have left William, his son and heir, of full age.

In the following year (3rd October, 1633), his widow Sarah, married Henry West.²

WILLIAM PERYER, SON OF JOHN AND ELIZABETH.

William Peryer, the eldest son of John, and heir of Ashurst, was baptized 31st July, 1608, and married Ann Donston or Dunstall on 30th September, 1633. He is usually described as a yeoman of Godalming; but for a short time (1641) as of Broadwater, Sussex. He appears to have inhabited the ancestral home near Sand Street; and his garden stretched behind the houses in the Market Place, as far as the garden of the Antelope (now White Hart) Inn. Both he and his wife were landowners.

He died at little over the age of 37 years, and was buried on 4th September, 1645. He left several children, his eldest son and heir being John, a minor.³

¹ Probate Prerog. C. of Cant., 24 October 1632.

² Probate of Will of Henry West, of the Parish of Godalming, Yeoman; Arch. C. of Surrey, 1 February 1635-6.

³ Ann Perryor, of Godalming, widow, who was presumably the relict of William Perryer (*ob.* 1645), gave directions for the disposal

JOHN PERYOR, SON OF WILLIAM AND ANN.

John Peryor, the son of William, was baptized 30th October, 1636, and was distinguished from one or more contemporaries of the same name by the title of gentleman.

His wife Thomasine joined with him, in 1663, in a deed of conveyance of a moiety of Ashurst Manor to Gerard Gore—an alderman of London—who had previously purchased the other moiety from the Elliott family.

They had several children, whose baptisms are recorded in the Godalming Church Registers in 1664, 1665, 1667, and 1673; but their subsequent history is not known.

Mr. Peryor seems to have resided in the picturesque house on the north side of the High Street, bearing the date 1663.¹ He is described as of Godalming, Gent., aged 39, in some evidence given in an Exchequer inquiry held on 12th October, 1676, at the house of Thomas Miller the Elder, bearing the sign of the King's Arms in Godalming; and again in the entry of his burial, which took place in Godalming Church on 2nd February, 1678-9.

Tomson Peryer (presumably his widow) married Mr. Isaac Fortrey on 1st April, 1684, and was buried on 5th March, 1703-4. Mr. Fortrey seems to have resided at the old house, dated 1663, at some period prior to 1701.

of personalty by a nuncupative Will of 31st August, 1660 (proved in Arch. C. of Surrey, 6 Nov. 1660). She therein referred to her son John, and her daughters Elizabeth Nevinson and Sarah Perrior, and to her son-in-law, — Edwards. The testatrix was buried 5th September, 1660.

¹ (*Circ.*) 1675, John Baryerer was assessed for 6 Fire Hearths, as occupier of a house in the High Street, at or very near this spot (*Exch. Lay Subsidies, clxxxviii, 504*).

THE ESTATE OR MANOR OF ASHURST.

Asshers, otherwise Ashurst, was recognised as a manor in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries; but its claim to the title is not clear.¹ Its lands, its courts (if any) and other manorial rights, are largely matters of conjecture.

Some part of the estate, including the Barton, was in the neighbourhood of Ockford Road, where "Asshers Cross" was a landmark,² and another part called Boreys³ was doubtless parcel of the Bury land on the north side of the High Street. There were also sundry fields and closes, in or near the common fields of Godalming on the high ground to the south of the town, which were held with or as part of the estate.

The manorial rights, whatever they may have been, were perhaps vested in the Peryers. This seems to be implied by the entry in the Ministers' Accounts of 1541-2,⁴ and is further borne out by the fact that when Arnold Champion died on 24th September, 1546, he is stated to have been seized (*inter alia*) of a tenement in Godalming held of John Peryor as of his Manor of Asshers, by fealty, rent of 8^d and two days' customary service in the autumn;⁵ and Caleb Westbrook, who died 21st July, 1635, was seized of a messuage called "le Anchor" in Godalming, held of William Perior, as of his Manor of Ashurst, rent 4^d.⁶

¹ Manning and Bray (*Hist. of Surrey*, Vol. 2, page 45) suggest that part of the Witley Manor of Ashurst was in Godalming, but this part, if any, was not the Ashurst Estate or Manor here referred to.

² Loseley MSS. Reference to "the way in Okford Lane nyghe [A]ssherss crose" in 1537; and to the way between Asshers Cross and Okford Hill, in 1541. ³ See note ³, p. 114. ⁴ See p. 114.

⁵ Inquis. p. m., (Ch.) II, Vol. 85, No. 71; (Exch.) II, File 1094, No. 8; W. & L., Vol. 3, No. 43. This Arnold Champion's estates descended to the Comptons and Hobsons. The Comptons took the lands in Godalming, Eashing, &c., which subsequently passed to the Titchbornes.

⁶ Inquis. p. m., (Ch.) II, Vol. 482, No. 74. Caleb Westbrook held several inns, viz., the George (opposite Pound Lane), the Antelope (now White Hart), and the Anchor (perhaps the Angel, formerly the Anchor).

The outlines of the history of the Perior moiety of Ashurst have already been traced down to the purchase of the Manor by Gerard Gore, in 1663.

The other moiety was probably held by John Hyberden in right of his wife Anne (*née* Brooker) at least as late as 1503-4, when he was assessed for lands in Godalming for the purposes of an aid granted in 19 Henry VII.¹ Anne the wife, or her representative Anne, married one George Addeson, in or before Michaelmas term 22 Henry VIII [1530], when George and Anne Addeson levied a fine of some 70 acres in Godalming to John Westbroke and John Chete, and gave a warranty for themselves and the heirs of Anne against all men. Whether or not this fine covered Ashurst, and with what object it was levied is not apparent; but, as already shown,² the moiety was held by — Hybden, the kinsman and heir of Anne Addiston, in 1541-2. It was soon after sold to John Eliot, and (*circ.*) 1548 he and John Perior are described as holding the Manor of Asshers in Godalmyng, with its rights, members, &c., by a rent of 7^s 2^d and service.³ By his Will of 3 June 1550,⁴ Mr. Eliot devised the lands, rents, &c., which he had late bought of John Huberden to his younger son John, who no doubt held the moiety subject to the lease to his brother-in-law Henry Chitty.⁵ John Eliot, the son, died 1607-8, leaving his son and heir Thomas Eliot, who (*circ.*) 1613 held half Ashurst, late in the tenure of Margaret Bradfold, widow, deceased, by a rent of 3^s. 6^d.⁶ On his death in 1623⁷ he left a son and heir George Eliot, a cursitor in the Court of Chancery, of London at one time and latterly of Godalming. This George Eliot died in 1642,⁸ seized of a moiety of the

¹ Add. Ch., Brit. Mus., No. 13,555.

² See p. 114.

³ Land Revenue, Miscell. Surveys, Vol. 190, p. 248, *sqq.*

⁴ Probate P. C. C., 16 May 1553 (*Tashe*, 10).

⁵ See note ⁴, p. 114.

⁶ Loseley MSS.

⁷ Will of Thomas Elyott of Tanglys, Berks, 20 Sept. 1623. (Prob. P. C. C., 11 Feb. 1623-4. *Byrde*, 10.)

⁸ Will of George Elyott, 16 April 1642. (Probate P. C. C., 4 Aug. 1642, *Cambell*, 100; and Inquis. p. m., (Ch.) II, Vol. 500, No. 3, and W. & L., Bundle 97, No. 94.)

Manor of Ashurst, and leaving his son and heir Richard, a minor,¹ who sold his moiety of the Manor to Alderman Gerard Gore, before referred to, about 1660.

Gerard Gore settled his real estates by Lease and Release of 19 and 20 June 1678,² in favour of his nephew John Gore, &c., but on the death of the latter without male issue, *circ.* 1695-6, they reverted to the descendants of Gerard Gore's late daughter Sarah, who had married Sir Edward Turnor, and were ultimately inherited by Edward Turnor Garth, otherwise Edward Turnor, who was created first Earl of Winterton.

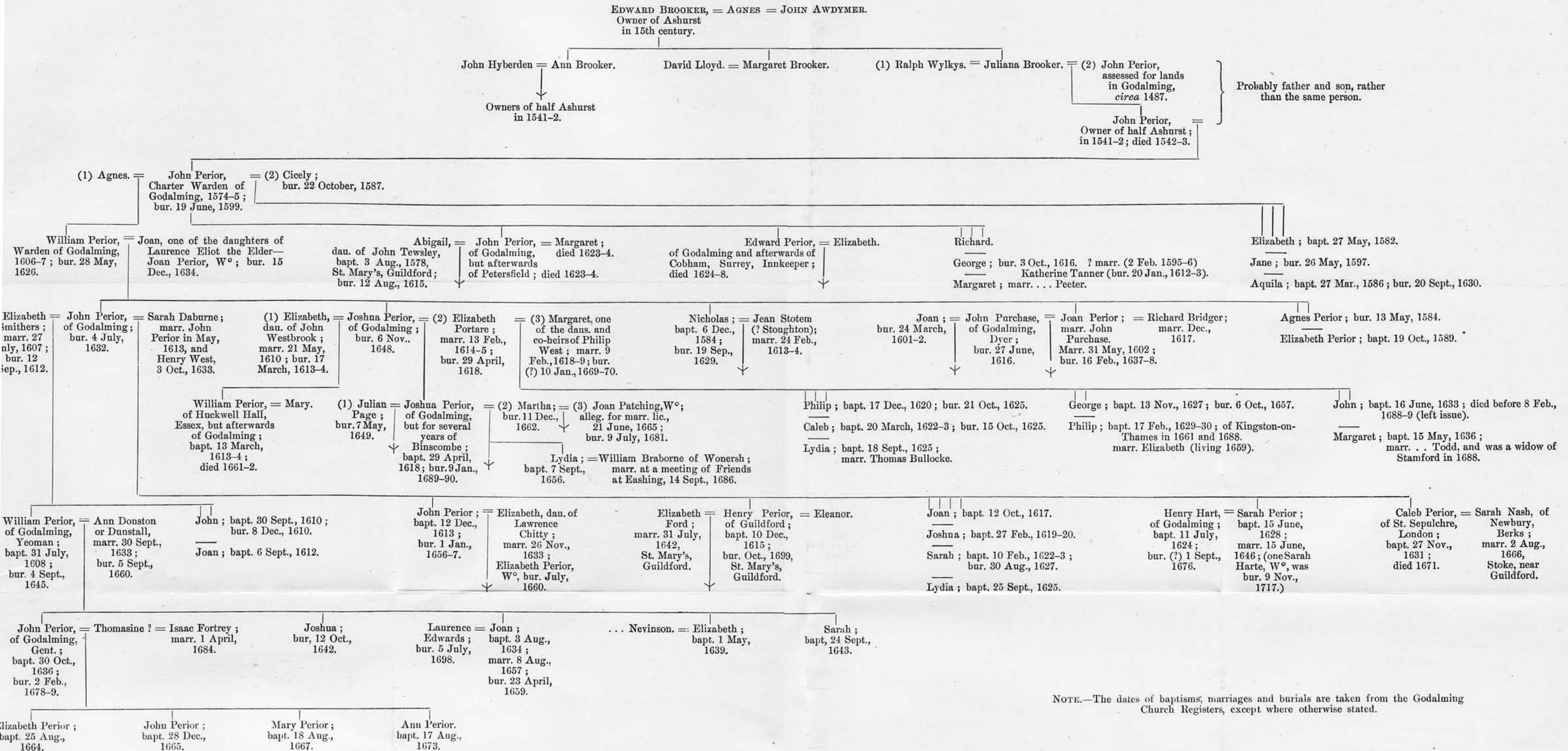
The original Ashurst had become partly disintegrated before the purchase of the moieties of the manor by Gerard Gore, and the Manor appears to have been subsequently lost sight of, or considered unworthy of mention by name in the marriage settlement of Lord Winterton, then Edward Turnor, in 1756.³ The rents payable to the Manor of Godalming in respect of a moiety of lands called Ashurst, 3^s 6^d, and other parts of Ashurst, continued to be claimable until 22nd October, 1811, the date of the general award of the Enclosure Commissioners, under the Godalming and Catteshall Enclosure Act, in which they were duly set forth and declared to be extinguished in consideration of a non-allotment of waste.

¹ According to a deed (Close Roll, 24 Chas. I, 3412, No. 3), George Eliot held six little closes or parcels of land in Godalming, called Hibberdines, containing 14 acres, presumably part of the Ashurst property.

² See Will of Gerard Gore (23 July 1678), proved in P. C. C., 21 May 1683.

³ Private Act, 1762.

Perior of Godalming.



NOTE.—The dates of baptisms, marriages and burials are taken from the Godalming Church Registers, except where otherwise stated.